

Being able to put words together into sentences is a big step in child's ability to communicate. It means that they can get their message across more easily. It also lets them communicate their wants and needs. Using and understanding sentences lets children influence the world around them and make things happen as a result of their speaking.

"Do as I say"

Getting ready

You can play this game as a whole group or split into smaller groups. You don't need any special equipment; just gather the children ready to play!



How to play

- Tell the children that they need to listen carefully because you're going to give them an instruction to follow. Let them know that they will also have the chance to give some instructions to you and their friends.
- Ask them to touch the part of their body that you say. Tell them "touch your nose" or "touch your head". Who can do it the quickest?
- Then it's their turn. Ask each child in turn to give an instruction to the group. If they say one word only, repeat what they say adding a word. So if they say "mouth" the adult repeats "touch your mouth... come on everyone".

Continue until everyone has had a turn.

Play it a different way

Make it easier: Give the child a choice – "shall we touch our nose or touch our mouth?" Then when they choose, repeat it back "OK touch our mouth".

Make it trickier: Encourage the child to use a different action word. You could "wiggle your fingers" "clap your hands" "shake your leg". Give them an example of the kind of sentence to follow first and then see if they can use these more tricky words.